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Disability Commission Minutes 03/22/2006

ARLINGTON COMMISSION ON DISABILITY MEETING MINUTES MARCH 22, 2006

Members Present: Lin Baker, Barbara Cutler, and Barbara Jones

Members Absent: Maureen St. Hilaire, Susan James, Louis Krodel, and Kevin O'Brien

Staff Present: Jack Jones

Others Present: Paolo Marinelli, Resident & Pedestrian Advocate

Meeting Called To Order:

Barbara Cutler called the meeting to order at 4:10 P.M.

Annual Town Meeting:

Barbara C. said that she attended the Board of Selectmen Meeting of February 27, 2006 in order to answer any questions pertaining to the Disability Warrant Articles submitted by the Commission for the 2006 Annual Town Meeting. Barbara C. said that the Selectmen's opinion with a vote of (5-0) was that Warrant Article 8 pertaining to curb snow removal was a policy matter and could be addressed without changes to the Bylaw. Barbara C. said that the Selectmen voted (4-1) to take no action regarding Warrant Article 9 Snow Removal along the Marquis Minuteman Trail. Barbara C. said that the Selectmen recommended writing a resolution instead of a Bylaw amendment for Warrant Article 10 regarding universal construction. Barbara C. said that the Board of Selectmen recommended no action by a vote of (5-0) regarding Warrant Article 11 that pertains to smoother sidewalks. Barbara C. said that the Selectmen suggested that the Commission and the Director of Public Works work together to address this issue of smoother sidewalks.

Barbara C said that she would present a report on the Disability Commission at Town Meeting. Jack said that the Annual Town Meeting would begin on Monday, April 24, 2006.

Paolo said that the Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee (ABAC) apologized for the Advocate editorial opposing snow removal on the Marquis Minuteman Trail. Paolo said the ABAC was concerned about damage to the Trail and were sensitive to any

abutters concerns. Paolo said that when the Town requested State funding for lighting Peirce Field the Town referred to the Marquis Minuteman Trail as a transportation corridor.

Community Development Block Grant Request:

Jack said that a complete survey of curb cut ramps has been completed along Broadway and Warren Street. The Commission has requested \$200,000 in CDBG funding to repair or install compliant curb cut ramps on Broadway and Warren Street with any additional funds if approved being expended on additional curb ramps throughout the Town. Jack said that \$20,000 has been requested for the installation of an accessible ramp at the Dallin School Playfield. Barbara J. made a motion seconded by Lin to support the request for a ramp at the Dallin School. Maureen requested that she submit a yes vote. The vote was (4-0).

Tom Boudreau Memorial Gift Fund:

Jack said that to date \$1,700 has been received by the Gift Fund. Barbara C. suggested that if the funding is approved for the Dallin School Ramp that the Commission consider purchasing a bench in Tom's memory to be installed adjacent to the ramp.

Legislative Update:

Barbara C. said that Health Care is the major issue at present before the Massachusetts Legislature.

Other Business:

Jack said that Patsy Kramer would place a notice in the Advocate regarding two Commission Member openings.

Jack said that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development would be holding a Fair Housing Conference regarding reasonable accommodations under the Fair Housing Act. The panel discussions will be about accommodations for people with physical and cognitive disabilities. This Conference will be held on April 10, 2006 at the Thomas O'Neil, Jr. Federal Building. Jack said that Kim Kendrick, Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity is scheduled to speak at the Conference.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 P.M.